

VZCZCXRO2114  
PP RUEHBI  
DE RUEHLM #0930 2831142  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 091142Z OCT 08  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8756  
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1098  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8099  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 6301  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4551  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2324  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4521  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0544  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3625  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 8726  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 6137  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2971

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000930

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/09/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: SUICIDE BOMBER MISSES MINISTER SIRISENA  
BUT KILLS 1 AND INJURES 5

REF: COLOMBO 921

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr., for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

[1](#)1. (U) On October 9 a suicide bomber targeted the motorcade of Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Services Development Maithripala Sirisena 15 kilometers south of central Colombo. One person was killed and five were injured including Deputy Minister Gamlath and the Minister's private secretary. Sirisena escaped unharmed.

[1](#)2. (C) COMMENT: Sirisena, in addition to his influential ministerial portfolio, is the General Secretary of the ruling SLFP party and hails from the North Central Province (NCP). This attack comes just three days after NCP opposition leader Janaka Perera's assassination in Anuradhapura (ref A). Both suicide bombings bear all the hallmarks of LTTE operations and may portend a ratcheting up of attacks as heavy fighting continues in the North. End Comment  
BLAKE